

**Art of Autism
Minutes
May 24, 2018
2 PM PST, 5 PM EST**

Call in number: 866-747-5167 Participant Code: 59170628#

1. Roll Call – Carly Fulgham, Keri Bowers, Debra Muzikar, Tom Iland, Kimberly Gerry-Tucker

Absent – Ron Sandison

Donald Cohen is dropping off our board. He still supports what we are doing but is busy with his own nonprofit In the Public Interest. He will be moving to our advisory board.

2. Approval of prior minutes February, 2018. Minutes approved.
3. Old Business

A. University of Exeter Animation Project – Update Debra

Recap of project: They are part of a large research project called **Exploring Diagnosis**. The project website: <https://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/exploringdiagnosis/>

Exeter has conducted about 20 audio interviews with people about their experiences of autism including asking for their thoughts on diagnosis, treatment and neurodiversity. Selected AoA artists are creating mainly abstract animation as the visual imagery to accompany the interviews and soundtrack. The 3 artists who are involved are James Frye and Angela Weddle from the United States, J.A. Tan from Canada, and we are talking to Eddie Callis from the U.K. We had approached Moontain from France but the logistics make it hard for the U.K. team to meet up with him in France.

The artists are each paid \$2,500 for their participation and given support from Calling the Shots in Bristol, U.K. Dom from Calling the Shots has visited all the artists in the U.S. and Canada and they have a blog he is posting about the project. The 3 artists from the U.S. and Canada have received an initial payment of \$1,000 and will receive another \$1,500 upon delivery.

Tom Iland said that J.A. Tan has not cashed his check. Debra will check with Marie his mom and get back with Tom.

B. Art of Autism at Sophie's Gallery Kensington (St. Madelines) The installation which just ended was a brilliant success. Sophie's Gallery is a quaint gallery in San Diego's Kensington district. Opening night was well-attended and was featured with live interviews the following morning on San Diego's KUSI morning & afternoon news: <https://autismanimated.com/dolph/m/feed/view/Art-of-Autism-founder-Keri-Bowers-on-KUSI-TV-with-Diverse-Perspectives-Exhibit> - Sales of art work and books totaled \$__\$338.85 Art Autism's commission totaled \$_13.50 (we only received 5 percent of art work and did not take a commission on book sales).

We have not received compensation from Sophie's Gallery yet. Debra will follow-up. Debra is not sure of the amounts. Three artists sold art work – Carissa Paccereilli, Joel Anderson, and one other. Next year Keri wants to do an exhibit featuring parents and their children's art at Sophie's Gallery. The director Wendy was excited about that prospect.

Joel Anderson, Keri Bowers, Chantal Sicile-Kira and Austin John Jones were on KUSI TV about the exhibit.

C. Created on iPad - Apple Project. The project was an outstanding success. "How Artists with Autism Are Letting Their Creativity Shine" <https://www.popsugar.com/news/Art-Autism-Created-iPad-Exhibit-Exclusive-Interviews-44771683> was released on Popsugar on April 24th and a dedicated page created by Debra is featured on AoA's website: <https://the-art-of-autism.com/created-on-ipad/>

Eight AoA artists on the autism spectrum were given Ipads by Apple and asked to create art for Autism Awareness Month.

This was a very successful project. Keri talked about her experiences with David Idell and his Ipad. David has little verbal ability and the IPAD opened another world for him. Debra said that Apple was very impressed with our artists and that we were able to coordinate this project in a relatively short period of time.

We interfaced with the Diversity Department at Apple many times for this project. Besides giving artists a free Apple Ipad, Apple gave the artists support at their local store. Joel Anderson had a great relationship with the Temecula Apple Store and they included his art in their newsletter. Thanks to Angela Weddle who got the first review of the Apple Ipad out in a timely manner. We hope to partner again with Apple next year either for an

international project or a children's project. Tim Cook the CEO of Apple tweeted about the project and tagged the Art of Autism the day the project came up on the Art of Autism website. Popsugar got an exclusive.

D. **3rd Annual Poems & Art for Peace 2018 Project** - Keri Update - A soft call for poems, art, blogs and other peace-themed creativity has been put out in social media. Keri is drafting new submission guidelines for a formal call for poems & art to go out in social media in June. International World Peace Day is September 22nd. Selected submissions between now and then will be posted in blogs and the newsletter throughout the month of September in honor of World Peace Day.

Keri talked about this project which takes a lot of her time. This will be 3rd year she is curating it. It was motioned that Keri should get compensated \$400 for curating this project. Motioned approved. Tom will send Keri a check.

Other people who manage projects should think about getting compensated for their projects with a stipend since we now have a small amount of money we can work with.

E. **PODS Project** – Kimberly Update

Kimberly reported that the People of Diversity, Speaking (PODS) are trickling in and she has received good reports on the project. Debra wants 3 at a time because of the structure of the page. People of Diversity, Speaking (PODS) is a photo-journalist archive similar to Humans of New York (HONY).

F. **FB advertising budget**

We are not advertising on FB because the credit card that is associated with Debra's account is with Jeremiah's Ranch and FB only allows one credit card per person for advertising.

G. **Volunteer Match** - Keri attempted to contact one contact and was unable to make a solid connection. His schedule changed during attempt to schedule a discussion. This lead went nowhere.

H. **Google Grant** - Has been suspended.

Google has changed their advertising protocol and Debra needs to redo all the ads. She hasn't had time to do this.

I. **Art of Autism Goals & Objectives** – Update All - No submissions / suggestions have been received to date.

Keri talked about the importance of setting goals & objectives and encouraged all board members to email their goals & objectives.

J. **Guidelines Committee** – Update Carly

Carly has been busy with her new baby and this is tabled.

K. **Accommodations for Autistic Board Members** (Committee?)

Keri hopes to take this up again in the future.

L. **Director's Insurance has been acquired.** The annual cost for Errors and Omissions Insurance cost is \$1,056. (Tom)

4. New Business

A. **Financial Report** - Tom, including FB Birthday money received since February, 2018, and payments to bloggers. We pay bloggers \$25 - \$50 depending upon how many blogs they've written for The Art of Autism. Autistic bloggers are allowed payment of one blog per month.

Amount available in US Bank: \$18,982.82

Amount available in PayPal: \$711.45

Facebook money earned since Feb 2018: \$1,602.41

Payments to bloggers since Feb 2018: \$500

Discussion re: payment to leads of long-term projects; Kimberly, PODS; Keri, Poems for Peace; Debra, for her many projects.

B. **Mainly Mozart Exhibit and Fundraiser June 8**

We have had a referral from ASA San Diego to curate an exhibit at a spectacular private residence in Escondido for June 8. Debra and Keri are curating this exhibit. Joel Anderson and Jeremy Sicile-Kira will be performing live art the evening of June 8. Mainly Mozart will also have a sensory friendly concert that weekend and the pianist Derek Paravicini will be playing. We are helping the nonprofit Mainly Mozart to promote these events.

C. **Donations Received** - \$1,000 from scholarship foundation, money from an arts program at Wilkes College, money from Lake Park High School Special Ed class April fundraiser.

Tom read the letter from the Oberkotter Family Foundation Scholarship Fund. A student had submitted an essay to the fund about a nonprofit that inspired her and based on that essay they gave the Art of Autism \$1,000.

A special education program in Lake Park, Illinois, is submitting a check to us for a fundraiser they did in April for Autism Awareness month. Their special education students have a coffee kiosk and collected money for our nonprofit.

Also an arts program at Wilkes College in Pennsylvania did a fundraiser for the Art of Autism and paypaled us the money. They sold t-shirts with a design on it.

D. **AoA Trademark Assignment** - Sandy Lipkin is submitting

Debra reported that the original Trademark had been assigned to Keri and Debra. We have reassigned it to The Art of Autism. Sandy Lipkin is an attorney in Ventura who has a child on the autism spectrum. She submitted the trademark for the A of A and gave us a discount in fees because we are a nonprofit.

E. **May is Mental Health Month** - posting blogs of those with dual diagnosis. Need to roll out these months in a more thoughtful manner.

F. **Facebook Ads** - We need someone to post Facebook ads. Debra can place for one only organization's ad, and that is Jeremiah's Ranch.

5. **Announcements** – In early June Tom is visiting the Autsit program in Lake Tahoe and will blog about it. Autsit is a meditation program for autistic people.

6. **Adjournment.** Next meeting via phone August 23 at 2 PM.